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SYDNEY, TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1917.

SUMMARY.

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The flight of civilians from districts occupied or threatened by the enemy has assumed vast proportions.

The stations are crowded with fugitives waiting for the trains.

The winter is mild, otherwise thousands would die from the effects of the cold.

Extraordinary scenes have witnessed outside London throughout the week.

Long queues, mainly women, waited outside licensed shops in order to purchase whisky.

The Liverpool liner Albatross struck the rocks of Baltimore, Cork. Fifteen persons were drowned.

Ministerial floods have occurred in Queensland. Three parts of the main stream in Clontarf have been washed away.

The houses in the low-lying parts of the town have been wrecked or demolished.

Many lives have been lost, 23 bodies having already been recovered.

It is reported that 100 persons have either been drowned or are missing.

The railway lines are washed away in places, and food supplies are becoming short.

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Flood conditions also prevail in the Mackay district. The Pioneer River is bank high.

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Patrols and recruiting squads were made from platforms, Colonel Burns, M.L.C., presiding at the principal platform.

The ring events were a feature of the demonstration, the chariot race attracting much attention.

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DOBRUDJA

WHOLLY ABANDONED
MORE ENEMY PROGRESS

SUBMARINES

FRENCH CRUISER LOST
1916 PRISONERS

FRANCE'S TOTAL, 78,000

The enemy continues to make progress in Roumania. He has taken positions on the Moldavian frontier, where violent fighting continues.

It is unofficially reported that the Roumanians and Russians have now completely evacuated the Dobrudja district.

The French announce that during 1916 they took over 78,000 prisoners on the Somme and Verdun fronts.

A French cruiser was sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean. Only four lives were lost.

The position in Greece is still causing uneasiness. A treacherous combination between Greece and the Central Powers is feared.

WESTERN FRONT.

LONDON, Jan. 1. Sir Douglas Haig, reporting late on Sunday night, stated: "We have been successful in our operations on the Western Front. The enemy has been driven back in several places, and we have captured a large number of prisoners. The position is now very favorable for us."

FRANCE'S PRISONERS.

78,000 DURING 1916.

PARIS, Jan. 1. It is officially announced that the French took prisoner 78,000 Germans during 1916.

DURATION OF WAR.

MAY BE ANOTHER YEAR.

LONDON, Dec. 31. Lord Curzon, who is a member of the new British War Council, has issued a message to the Prime Minister, Mr. Lloyd George, stating that the war will continue for another year, perhaps longer.

A GERMAN OPINION.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 31. The German Emperor, in a bombastic message to the Reichstag, stated that during 1916 the army and navy were victorious in all theatres on land and water, and they will be victorious in 1917.

SINN FEIN RIOT.

OUTBREAK IN CORK.

LONDON, Jan. 1. There were serious riots in Cork on Saturday night.

Rix hundred Sinn Feiners attacked 50 soldiers who were returning from an entertainment. The soldiers fired, and the police charged the rioters with batons, injuring several. The crowd scattered, but afterwards attacked isolated soldiers.

REPLY TO GERMANY.

NEWSPAPER APPLAUSE.

APPROVAL OF ALLIES.

LONDON, Jan. 1. The English newspapers applaud the reply to the German Note, and express similar satisfaction to that of France and Italy.

The "Daily News" protests against the suggestion of the Allies demanding penalties for the crimes committed by Germany, which may expose the Entente to a charge of vindictiveness, from which Mr. Asquith and Viscount Grey were careful to keep the Allies free.

FRENCH SATISFACTION.

The Paris newspapers enthusiastically approve of the Entente's reply.

The "Matin" says the assertions on which Germany bases its proposals are entirely false. It is the duty of the Allies to repel them.

The "Petit Parisien" says the Note is a strong, conclusive, and irrefutable reply. M. Pichon, writing in the "Journal," says the Note does not contain any new information, except the establishment of the enemy's crime.

The Paris "Figaro" says the reply shows that Germany's Note is a mere war measure, with which it was sought to surprise and divide the Allies. The effect of the reply will be powerful and universal.

The "Echo de Paris" remarks: "Vainly the Germans sought to hypnotize us with their war map, but the financial and economic problems are as important as territorial problems."

The "Journal" says: "The Entente's refusal to talk peace is the most marked thing in the reply."

A Rome message says the newspapers join in a chorus of approval of the Allies' reply.

The "Messagero" says it is a destruction of Prussian militarism is an essential condition of peace.

EAGER GERMAN.

A Geneva message says: "A rumour that the Entente's reply to the German Peace Note had arrived at the American Embassy caused great excitement in Berlin on Saturday night. Vast crowds assembled in the streets."

CRITICISM IN AMERICA.

Lord Sydenham, writing in the "New York Times," says that the Allies' reply is a dignified and historic document of the highest importance. It was necessary to recall the damning record of Germany's crimes in order to explain the great issues. The reply is bound to appeal to the best sentiments of the Americans.

Mr. Hall Caine, in a letter in the "New York Times," says that M. Ribot (French Minister for Finance) has left London, carrying the draft of the Allies' reply to President Wilson's note, which must have the approval of all the Allies. He believes that the reply will express appreciation of America's action, but will not recognize America's right to force the pace of the peace movement because of the increasing danger from submarines. Mr. Lansing's position to President Wilson's Note did much to remove misunderstandings.

The "New York Times" points out that Germany made her peace offer because peace has become an imperative necessity to the Central Powers. The Allies have given their expected refusal: it is now the hard-pressed belligerents' turn to bid defiance to the German peace offer, and to present the facts for the German Emperor's misadventure.

A NOTE FROM SPAIN.

A reply by Spain to President Wilson's Peace Note, describing the Note as impractical, has caused considerable comment. Some correspondents say that the character of the Note suggests that President Wilson addressed secret communications to neutrals in order to persuade them to support his appeal for peace.

"DOOR IS CLOSED."

The German Ambassador, Count von Bernstorff, says that as the situation at the door is closed. He doubts whether the German Government will make any rejoinder.

Government officials at Tientsin picked out the best looking women and outraged and murdered them. Massacres were part of the Young Turk's settled policy of exterminating non-Turkish races.

The German military authorities in Turkey made no attempt to stop the massacres.

GERMAN'S FOOD PROBLEM.

LONDON, Jan. 1. The Amsterdam correspondent of the "Daily Express" sent a neutral merchant of high standing on a mission of inquiry into Germany. The places he visited included Cologne and Hanover. He attempted to enter Essen. He says that, in spite of the continual smuggling in of foodstuffs, the condition of north-western Germany is terrible. Bread, like India-rubber, made from the sweepings of rice and sawdust, is yet the chief nourishment of the poor population.

The type of chubby German has disappeared, except the peasants, who feed at the expense of the town population. The latter people are mostly pale and haggard. The people of Cologne receive eight ounces of bread, 13 ounces of meat (including bones), and 22 ounces of potatoes daily, and two ounces of butter weekly. They get one egg per fortnight. Only children under 6 years of age receive milk. Fresh vegetables, cheese, and tea are unknown. There has been a great increase in thefts, boys and girls organising bands and breaking into shops. Revolutionary ideas are growing.

The Emperor and his military clique are between two abysses—revolution within and defeat without. The merchant noticed many women carried out of the churches in a fainting condition owing to lack of nourishment. Many soldiers on foot refused to return to the front, and are imprisoned or shot. All classes of people are convinced that famine will surely come with the spring, and that a revolution will break out unless there is peace.

The people told the merchant to take this message to the world: "We are at a life. Ask the world to have pity—our own Government has none."

GERMANS BEG FOOD.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 31. Starving men and women crowd the quays in Stettin and Lubek awaiting the arrival of ships from neutral countries, and begging food. A crowd of screaming and weeping women stormed several ships.

REPARATION WANTED.

The Entente has handed another note to the Government of Greece, demanding reparation for the outrages committed on Entente subjects on December 1.

GREECE AND GERMANY.

FEARS OF TREACHERY.

PARIS, Jan. 1. The unsatisfactory attitude of the Greek King continues to preoccupy public opinion in France. The German and Bulgarian have been reinforced and fully equipped, and are maintaining a steady bombardment of the Allies' front at Monastir.

French newspapers quote German and Greek documents to show that there is an agreement to combine against the Allies, and that the German and Bulgarian have agreed to combine against the Allies.

THE ROUMANIAN RETIREMENT.

DOBRUDJA ABANDONED.

VIOLENT FIGHTING.

LONDON, Jan. 1. The Petrograd correspondent of the "Petit Parisien" says: "The Russo-Roumanians completed the evacuation of Dobrudja on Saturday."

A Russian official message states: "Violent battles are raging in the Dobrudja. The enemy, who was reinforced repeatedly, attacked and captured several heights. The enemy is stubbornly attacking on the Moldavian frontier. His offensive north-west of Szevel failed, and the Roumanians, who were victorious, secured many prisoners. The heights on the Upper Putna frequently changed hands, but remained in the enemy's possession."

The Russo-Roumanians dislodged the enemy from Bordeschi. The enemy retreated the Roumanians north-west of the Buzen-Focant railway. A third enemy attack in Dobrudja, south-east of Braila, resulted in the enemy occupying a height in the city.

A German official message says: "We captured Russo-Roumanian positions in the Olteu Valley. Von Mackensen encountered strong resistance north and east of Raminia Sarat. After a strenuous attack we entered the enemy's position, and gained ground. Heavy fighting continued."

A later German official message says: "We threw back the Russians as far as Braila bridge head, and gained positions east of Matchin, in Dobrudja."

An Austrian official message states: "East and north-east of Kozul and Vassar we took Nerzic and Tuleit."

FLIGHT OF CIVILIANS.

It is reported from Petrograd that the flight of Roumanian civilians from districts occupied or threatened by the enemy has assumed vast proportions. The stations are crowded with fugitives, miserably awaiting trains. Happily the winter is mild, otherwise thousands would die of cold.

SUNK BY SUBMARINE

ALLIED CRUISER.

PARIS, Dec. 31. A cruiser was attacked by a submarine and sunk in the Mediterranean on December 27.

The cruiser sank in half an hour. In consequence of the perfect discipline which prevailed and the prompt arrival of patrol boats there were only four victims, of whom an explosion killed two.

This cruiser, making the fifth French warship that has been lost during the war, Naval critics contend that the armour plating of warships under the waterline is not adequate—otherwise it is not easy to sink them. They also say that the water-tight compartments must be made smaller.

MERCHANTMAN LOST.

The Norwegian steamer Thrya, 740 tons, and the British sloop H. M. Adams, are believed to have been sunk. Thirteen of the Thrya's crew were saved.

ARMENIAN HORRORS.

SYSTEMATIC MASSACRE.

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The German military authorities in Turkey made no attempt to stop the massacres.

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The type of chubby German has disappeared, except the peasants, who feed at the expense of the town population. The latter people are mostly pale and haggard. The people of Cologne receive eight ounces of bread, 13 ounces of meat (including bones), and 22 ounces of potatoes daily, and two ounces of butter weekly. They get one egg per fortnight. Only children under 6 years of age receive milk. Fresh vegetables, cheese, and tea are unknown. There has been a great increase in thefts, boys and girls organising bands and breaking into shops. Revolutionary ideas are growing.

The Emperor and his military clique are between two abysses—revolution within and defeat without. The merchant noticed many women carried out of the churches in a fainting condition owing to lack of nourishment. Many soldiers on foot refused to return to the front, and are imprisoned or shot. All classes of people are convinced that famine will surely come with the spring, and that a revolution will break out unless there is peace.

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FEARS OF TREACHERY.

THE ROUMANIAN RETIREMENT.

DOBRUDJA ABANDONED.

VIOLENT FIGHTING.

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A Russian official message states: "Violent battles are raging in the Dobrudja. The enemy, who was reinforced repeatedly, attacked and captured several heights. The enemy is stubbornly attacking on the Moldavian frontier. His offensive north-west of Szevel failed, and the Roumanians, who were victorious, secured many prisoners. The heights on the Upper Putna frequently changed hands, but remained in the enemy's possession."

The Russo-Roumanians dislodged the enemy from Bordeschi. The enemy retreated the Roumanians north-west of the Buzen-Focant railway. A third enemy attack in Dobrudja, south-east of Braila, resulted in the enemy occupying a height in the city.

A German official message says: "We captured Russo-Roumanian positions in the Olteu Valley. Von Mackensen encountered strong resistance north and east of Raminia Sarat. After a strenuous attack we entered the enemy's position, and gained ground. Heavy fighting continued."

A later German official message says: "We threw back the Russians as far as Braila bridge head, and gained positions east of Matchin, in Dobrudja."

An Austrian official message states: "East and north-east of Kozul and Vassar we took Nerzic and Tuleit."

FLIGHT OF CIVILIANS.

It is reported from Petrograd that the flight of Roumanian civilians from districts occupied or threatened by the enemy has assumed vast proportions. The stations are crowded with fugitives, miserably awaiting trains. Happily the winter is mild, otherwise thousands would die of cold.

SUNK BY SUBMARINE

ALLIED CRUISER.

PARIS, Dec. 31. A cruiser was attacked by a submarine and sunk in the Mediterranean on December 27.

The cruiser sank in half an hour. In consequence of the perfect discipline which prevailed and the prompt arrival of patrol boats there were only four victims, of whom an explosion killed two.

This cruiser, making the fifth French warship that has been lost during the war, Naval critics contend that the armour plating of warships under the waterline is not adequate—otherwise it is not easy to sink them. They also say that the water-tight compartments must be made smaller.

MERCHANTMAN LOST.

The Norwegian steamer Thrya, 740 tons, and the British sloop H. M. Adams, are believed to have been sunk. Thirteen of the Thrya's crew were saved.

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French newspapers quote German and Greek documents to show that there is an agreement to combine against the Allies, and that the German and Bulgarian have agreed to combine against the Allies.

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NEW YEAR HONOURS

OFFICERS DECORATED.

LONDON, Jan. 1. The list of New Year honours contains the names of the following Australian and New Zealand officers, who are being decorated in recognition of their distinguished conduct:

MILITARY CROSS.

Majors Norman Harris, William Inglis, Aubrey Willshire.

Captains Harold Selers, James Bentley, John Birch, Arthur Blaney, William Bridgford, Horace Brimmond, Henry Cameron, Gordon Campbell, Richard Casey, Norman Clowes, Frederick Collier, Arthur Dodd, Francis Dunn, William French, Eric Fisher, Alexander Forster, Robert Giddes, John Graft, Charles Greive, Charles Guilfoyle, Charles Harrison, Frederick Hinton, Arnold Hogg, Walter Jones, John Jones, Harold Koch, John McElroy, George Melior, Donald Monah, Mafra McVea, Douglas Marks, Gordon Maxwell, Charles Norton, Thomas Milner, Clarence Miller, Keith O'Neil, Lowell Reeder, Hugh Pulling, William Sanday, James Savage, Edgar Sawyer, Ivan Sherborn, George Smith, Carl Spickman, Geoffrey Strachan, David Thomson, Harold Townsend, Charles Walklate, Stanley Watson, Albert Weir, Eric White, Percy Woods.

Lieutenants Robert Aland, Charles Brown, Arnold Brown, Harcourt Brown, John Buckland, Reginald Caldwell, Cyril Clowes, Guy Davenport, Walter Edgar, Thomas Fairfax, James Fay,

